

Appln No. 09/939,527
Reply to Office Action of 09/25/2003

REMARKS

This is in response to the Examiner's communication mailed September 25, 2003, which included a final rejection of claims 22, 24 to 31, 44 and 45, and the Advisory Action mailed January 15, 2004.

A Request for Extension of Time, and required fee, is submitted herewith extending the period for response to and including February 15, 2004. (The first response (Response B) to the final rejection was filed within two months of the final rejection.)

Applicant wishes to express appreciation to Examiner Hamlin for the courtesy shown applicant's attorney during a telephone conversation on January 22, 2004 regarding the above-identified application. This Response C is believed to be consistent with the telephone conversation between the Examiner and applicant's attorney.

In the above-noted Advisory Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 1 to 21, 27 to 30, 44 and 45 are allowed and claims 22 and 24 to 26 are rejected.

In order to facilitate prosecution of the above-identified application, applicant has canceled the rejected claims 22 and 24 to 26, without prejudice. Applicant expressly reserves the right to seek patent protection of these canceled claims in one or more later filed related applications.

Since all the remaining claims, that is claims 1 to 21, 27 to 30, 44 and 45 have been allowed, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to pass the above-identified application to issuance

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at an early date. Should any matters remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to call (collect) applicant's attorney at the telephone number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Frank J. Uxa
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 25,612
4 Venture, Suite 300
Irvine, CA 92618
(949) 450-1750
Facsimile (714) 450-1764

FJUxa/ac